

THE PEACOCK OF JEWELS

By FERGUS HUME

A modern mystery story. A golden peacock, jewel studded, secreted the hiding place of a fortune in precious gems, and with this mystery was coupled that of a crime of which the innocent were accused.

Music!

By Jack Callahan

NEXT WEEK'S COMPLETE NOVEL

THE SPLENDID SPUR

By A. T. OULLIER-COUCH

A story of England in 1642, and of a young man whom adventure led from his college studies to fight "For King and Church." A story full of adventure, with two heroines—one whom he loved; one who loved him—one whom he hated; one who saved him when dire peril threatened.

BEGINS IN NEXT MONDAY'S EVENING WORLD

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CHAPTER XIX.

LAN returned to the village with Marie, and what is more, insisted that Dick should return with him.

"We must get to the bottom of these matters," he said late that afternoon; "and if Marie will not sleep at the Monastery, Dick, you and I must do so."

On arriving at Lewes they found Mr. Fuller in person waiting for them in his pony-chaise, bubbling over with unexpected news.

"I am glad you have returned, Marie," he said. "A man has been seen for you."

"Who is he?"

"An Indian gentleman called—"

"Mord-Bakke," interrupted Alan breathlessly. "What does he want with Marie?"

"I don't know what he wants," said Mr. Fuller. "He called at the Monastery to see Marie, and, not finding her there, he came to the vicarage."

"He declined to believe that Marie was in town, although Henry told him so. However, I am sure he is not far off."

"Don't see him, Marie," said Alan quickly. "Dick and I can interview him privately and learn what he has to say about the matter. Marie will sleep to-night at our house, since she is afraid to remain at the Monastery. I and Lattimer stay there."

Marie nodded and waved her hand as the vicar—who was rather bewildered by all this mystery—drove the pony-chaise out of the station yard.

The two young men hurried to their quarters and started on the five miles' tramp to Helstone in very good spirits.

Alan fancied, and communicated his fancy to his friend, that the presence of Bakke augured good, since he came about the matter of the peacock, and would be willing to impart it if he shared the fortune.

"We can ask him, for here he comes," said Alan.

Fuller's sharp eyes had seen the tall figure of the Indian almost running along the high road. Bakke met them quite breathless, and explained his business in a few words.

"My friend knows all about the matter of the Rotherhithe crime," said Alan. "You can speak frankly before him."

"How do you know that I came down to speak of the crime?" asked Bakke in a haughty tone.

"Because you know more about it than you have hitherto chosen to confess."

Bakke replied, still haughty. "I object to the word 'confess.' Mr. Fuller; I have no feeling of guilt in the matter."

"I don't say that you murdered the man yourself, but you know who did."

"Perhaps I do," answered the man, "but you can't expect me to give you that information without payment."

"Oh, if you want money?"

"I do not want money, Mr. Fuller; a gentleman of my rank does not take money. I only desire a share of the jewels which rightfully belong to me—the whole of them."

"I think not," said Alan. "There was a proper assignment of the jewels made by the Bishop of Kam, the Bishop and their vizier. All is in order, Mr. Bakke, and you have not a leg to stand on."

"The man was silent for a few moments in sheer surprise at this very authoritative statement. "How do you know this, Mr. Fuller?"

"I read the statement myself, and saw the jewels of the crown."

"Where are they? Where are they?"

"In a certain bank in London," said Alan quickly.

"I shall be sure if you can bring me the face with that boy," said Jotly. "I shall be sure if you can bring me the face with that boy," said Jotly. "I shall be sure if you can bring me the face with that boy," said Jotly.

CHAPTER XX.

OW does the lad come here?" demanded Fuller indignantly, "and what have you been doing to him that he should be in this terrible state?"

"He knows the truth," snarled Sorley, who looked quite wolfish at the moment, "and I have been trying to starve it out of him."

"But y' haven't," murmured Jotly feebly, gave to the man.

Lattimer burst into the room with dishevelled hair and untidy clothes, just as he had leaped out of bed, and evidently was greatly excited. His eyes were on the face of the man who came in, and he stopped short on beholding Sorley and the missing lad. "Well, I'm hanged!" said Dick, and gasped with amazement.

"You'll hear it all later, old man. Meanwhile what's up that you rush in like a whirlwind?" asked Alan.

"I missed you when I woke up, and wondered where you were. I looked out of the window of my bedroom and saw a woman coming up the avenue with a man. As they came nearer I saw that it was Miss Grison and Mr. Sorley."

"The young man lighted the candle he had kept beside him, and in the radiance of the taper surveyed the broken-down creature before him, who looked quite his age, if not more."

"You do not believe that I am guilty; surely you don't?" and he looked pitifully at the young man.

"I don't believe it," said Alan absolutely convinced of your guilt," admitted Alan cautiously. "But when you gave yourself up why did you run away again?"

"I can explain that," replied Sorley with a cunning look. "Only give me time, and all will be explained. I must get away; help me to fly beyond the reach of your eyes. I can prove my innocence. I won't take the peacock with me."

"The treasure has been found, Mr. Sorley."

"What—what—what?" the man would have fallen had not Fuller held him up.

"Marie and I solved the riddle!" said Alan, who looked quite crestfallen, and hurriedly related everything in as few words as possible.

"You must act like a man, Mr. Sorley, and give yourself up. If you are innocent, you need fear nothing, and I shall stand by you throughout the trial."

"The trial! the trial!" wailed Sorley. "No, no, I cannot! I dare not. Unless I can prove the truth."

"He! To whom do you refer?"

"He! I mean—I mean—ah, you giving myself up with your own eyes, Alan, I swear you shall see."

"And wrenching himself free, Sorley flung open the door and passed hastily out of the room."

The cold, searching light of the morning penetrated the large room in a chill manner, and Alan shivered in the keen air when he opened the shutters of his window. The sound of Sorley's returning footsteps was heard and when the door re-opened to show the old man dragging a miserable object forward by the arm.

"Jotly!" cried Alan with a bewildered stare.

"Yes, Jotly," echoed Sorley; "and now you know why I belted."

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my sake. It was your wife, and de-

ceived some consideration. But you drove me away and you drove him-

"I gave you money to set up that house, and I took it as my right, although I could have spent it by the offer. I only held my peace when you were coming, that person who shut up into jail. He and I went away to try and live out our ruined lives as best we could. It was too much for me, and I swore that you should pay for your wickedness. He told you that he had the peacock, which I had given him after I took it from here, as it was a toy to him, and you came and came, but I prevented Baldwin giving it to you, although he wanted to, for money that he might go to the colonies."

"I did my best to keep him in the straight path. I allowed him a weekly income, and comforted him, I did that until he was a woman could do. But it was all in vain. He was a poor weak woman. When Baldwin confessed to me that he had murdered that man, I knew that the end had come."

"He told me that he was suspected, and implored me to save him. I promised to do so, and I did in the only way that I could. I killed him. I stabbed him to the heart, and that was an easy death compared to being hanged."

"So fierce and wild did she look as she said these words, that all present shivered, and Sorley moaned. "A terrible woman," he said. "It was the only way. I wished to save him from being hanged and the honored name of our father, Dr. Christophorus Grison, from being ruined. I snatched him, and I killed him. Baldwin, and also to use his death as a means to hang you."

"You wicked woman!" cried Alan indignantly.

"Wicked? Why wicked, since this beast ruled both me and my brother? And I made my plans cleverly. My vengeance had not this long been complete should have. You, I mean you, said Miss Grison, walking slowly toward the Indian, "why couldn't you let me have my wife? I would have been a lot of money."

"I wanted the jewels," said Bakke stolidly.

"You shall never have them," cried Miss Grison, suddenly, and before any one could move she had her arm in the Indian's heart, and he fell like a log on the floor.

"Great God!" roared the inspector and sprang forward.

Miss Grison put out her frail arms, "I'll tell you the whole story, she mocked coolly. "I have the beast who barked me of my revenge!"

CHAPTER XXII.

N the month of July the park of the Monastery was in full leafage and presented a glorious sea of shimmering tremulous green. It was like the Garden of Eden, and neither Adam nor Eve were wanting, since the lovers were walking there, arm in arm, talking of the past, congratulating themselves on the present and looking forward to a serene and glorious future.

"It's like heaven," sighed Miss Inderwick, "and to think that we shall be married to-morrow. Alan dearest."

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